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The Way of Rejoicing

Wyatt Sawyer

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THE WAY OF REJOICINGINT:Words Rejoice, rejoicing etc. in Bible 252 times.

Suggests: Closeness to Lord affords happiness.

Many in Bible times experienced the same

MEANING: "To gladden, to cheer, to glory, be very happy!"

LESSON: Episode of a man who was gladdened, cheered and made very happy--closeness to the Lord.

* ACTS 8:26-39.

I. A MODEL FOR HAPPINESS IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

1. Background. Church of Christ few months old. Ch. 8. Pharisee, named Saul, trying to destroy Christians scattered abroad-teaching. Phillip taught in Samaria; v. 8; Simon.

2. V. 26. ANGEL. Days of miracles and special aids. Heb. 1:14. Ministers for prospects. DID NOT appear to sinner. Preacher!

3. V. 26. PREACHER. Rom. 1:16, 17. II Cor. 4:7. Teaching done by humans in all 11 cases

4. V. 26. GO. Where? General! South. ^{75 miles} A way. Desert. Trusted the details to come in due time.

5. V. 27. ETHIOPIA. Home was 1,000 miles away! 50 from Jerusalem. Homeward bound still in sins. Occasion: Pentecost, F. of Harvest, (Weeks). Big day in Jewish rel. calendar.

6. V. 27. EUNUCH. Gr. high authority in a court. Chamberlain. OR one who abstains from wedlock through cruel mutilation or choice.
1. Lord chamberlain of royal household.
2. Chancellor of the Exchequer of Candace.
3. Treasurer of the rich nation of Ethiopia

7. V. 27. WORSHIP. Suggests one of three things:
1. Faithful Jew working in far away land.
2. Proselyte: circumcised gentile under Law.
3. "God-fearer" Read Law & attended Synagogue
(34 days) Devoted: Much time and expense for 1 day!
Dedicated: God had to be first in his life

8. V. 28. READ. Custom of Jews & proselytes read aloud.

9. v. 29. SPIRIT. Go-specific. This chariot. This man!

SS 9-6-70
~~Ill.~~ **LOST**

Spirit did not teach the sinner. Directed vessel!
Ill. Could month ago said Spirit saved them!
Rom. 1:16.

INJECTED Why? Angel, son and teacher contacting
such a devoted, dedicated worshipper?

1. Salvation not in Old Law. John 14:6, A. 4:1
2. Man in a lost condition! Needed blood of Lamb

KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE LOST?

Ill. I do. Was 1:30 a.m. in N. Y. City. (1963)

Got on subway at 57th St. and planned to get off 57th.
Did! Went through metal turnstile to street.

This NOT Manhattan! (Brooklyn!)

Streets: dark, quiet, shadowy and friendless.

Surroundings: Weird, spooky, haunted & dangerous.

Plight: Alone, lost, defenseless, bewildered.

Danger above subway, locked out of gates

Possibility: Could disappear. No one knew w was!

(Imagine relief when remembered tokens in wallet)

10. v. 30. UNDERSTAND?

Rude? No. Helpful, concerned, caring.

Rom. 10:17. 10:15. Beautiful friend.

11. v. 31. DESIRED.

Wanted truth more than appearance of wisdom.

Wanted answers far more than protection of pride.

Wanted to understand Isaiah 53:1-7* at any cost.

12. v. 35. PREACHED JESUS.

Birth, mission, ministry, purpose, plan, death,
burial, resurrection and ascension.

I John 2:1-3. Keep His commandments.

13. v. 36. WHAT DOTH HINDER ME?

Want to be baptized! Mark 16:15-16.

Baptism is for believers! Vs. 37.

Baptism followed Confession. Matt. 10:32.

(Confession told in Ethiopia, Jerusalem and
through centuries where Bible has gone!)

14. v. 38-39. TELL IT LIKE IT IS? Both into. Both out of.

INV. REJOICING came because: Found Messiah, Lord and King!

Learned the way to complete remission of sins. Heb. 10:17.

Went home saved to save! Taught to teach. Blessed to bless